

entered it, but as late as May he wrote of the town: "This may be considered as a pleasant country residence with a number of neat little villages scattered around within a distance of a mile and a half and furnishing a plain and substantially good society. They have begun their buildings in about four or five different points, and at each of which there are buildings enough to be considered as a village. The whole population is about six thousand."

The primitive nature of the surroundings was not distasteful to the newly-elected President, and the ceremonies of his inauguration were strictly in keeping with them. A half royal dignity had characterized the inauguration of Washington and Adams. Jefferson would have none of this. The story, however, that "he rode on horseback to the Capitol without a single guard or servant in his train, dismounted without assistance, and hitched the bridle of his horse to the palisades," rests solely upon the assertion of an English traveler who thought thereby to amuse his own people. The facts were truly stated in a dispatch of Mr. Thornton, then in charge of the British legation, to Lord Grenville, Foreign Secretary in Pitt's administration: "He came from his own lodgings to the house where the Congress convenes and which goes by the name of the Capitol, on foot, in his ordinary dress, escorted by a body of militia artillery from the neighboring State, and accompanied by the Secretaries of the Navy and the Treasury and a number of his political friends in the House of Representatives."

The inaugural ceremonies were held in the Senate Chamber, in the presence of the national officials and a throng of spectators. The address* was a complete summary of his political faith. It was lengthy and highly rhetorical, but kindly and tolerant. It touched skilfully upon the recent heated contest, attempted to show why no spirit except that of unity and hope should fill the bosoms of victors and vanquished alike, and enumerated what its author deemed "the essential principles of our government." After the inaugural, Jefferson, by a strange

*See text, page 245.